MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 FEBRUARY 1982

Lebanon

Beirut radio reported that two car bombs exploded in the Ar-Rawshah area of Beirut setting large fires and destroying 25 cars. The radio said 36 people were hospitalized, including 6 with serious injuries, and that 2 people were killed. In a telephone conversation with Voice of Lebanon radio, a spokesman for an organization calling itself the Holy Struggle claimed responsibility for the explosions, asserting that they were directed against the intelligence centers of the Syrian "army of occupation" in response to Syrian operations against the inhabitants of Tripoli. The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio blamed the explosions on agents of the Zionist enemy and hostile organs.

Voice of Lebanon reported another explosion in west Beirut early on 24 February.

Syria

Recent reports from Damascus have indicated that President Hafiz al-Asad will not be prepared to meet with U.S. Envoy Philip Habib if he intends to visit Damascus during his forthcoming trip to the Middle East, KUNA reported. In a 24 February editorial reported by SANA, TISHRIN linked Habib's tour of the region to the Hamah incidents and the U.S. campaign against Syria.

Egypt

Shamir-'Ali, Military Committee Talks -- After meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Cairo, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said their talks focused on bilateral relations and normalization as well as Palestinian autonomy, Cairo radio reported. He said the date of President Husni Mubarak's visit to Israel will be discussed during Shamir's meeting with the president on 25 February. MENA indicated that the two sides continued to differ over autonomy, with Shamir wanting to concentrate discussions on the interim period of Palestinian autonomy, and the Egyptians rejecting the idea of concentrating on this period only, stressing that this will not encourage the Palestinians to join the peace process. The talks also dealt with tourism and technical problems of bilateral relations, MENA said. Jerusalem radio said that if the joint Egyptian-Israeli military committee fails to agree on the demarcation of the Elat border, the problem will be referred to higher levels. During the committee's 23 February meeting, Egypt agreed to the terms of purchase for oil tanks and other installations and utilities built by Israel in the Sinai, MENA reported.

Detainees Released -- President Mubarak ordered the release of 163 persons detained last September on charges of involvement in sectarian sedition, MENA reported.

Israel

Alignment on Jordan Policy -- Alignment representatives will not join a joint parliamentary delegation which Prime Minister Menahem Begin had proposed to send to the United States in order to explain Israel's opposition to the intended arms deal with Jordan, Jerusalem radio reported. ITIM reported that in a speech to the Commercial Club, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said the Israeli campaign against the supply of U.S. arms to Jordan would be strengthened if Israel supported a strengthening of U.S.-Jordanian relations on condition that Jordan joins the peace process.

Druze Strike -- Although HA'ARETZ said senior Jerusalem sources have estimated that the Druze unrest will shortly subside, 'AL HAMISHMAR reported that the heads of the Majdal Shams and Buq'ata village councils have joined the Druze strike. The strikers are being assisted by political circles in Israel and the West Bank, according to Jerusalem radio.

Jordan

AD-DUSTUR reported that informed Jordanian sources denied Jerusalem radio reports that Jordan has expelled the entire staff of the Syrian Embassy in Amman. However, AD-DUSTUR said Jordan recently asked Syria to recall its military attache from Amman.

Libyan-Tunisian Relations

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi entered Tunisia through a southern frontier post at the start of his official visit to the country, TAP reported.

Gulf Affairs

Saudi Arabia and Oman signed a security cooperation agreement in Riyadh, SPA reported. The report noted that Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said the agreement is consistent with similar agreements with Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE. However, he added, it is more comprehensive than those signed with some other countries. The Ad-Damman daily AL-YAWM noted that Pirnce Nayif said Saudi Arabia supports the formation of an internal Gulf security force to be called the Gulf Rapid Deployment Force. Meanwhile, SPA reported that Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) interior ministers began a conference in Riyadh. On the same day, Gulf information ministers began a conference in Kuwait, Kuwait radio reported, and issued a statement calling on Iran to respond to efforts to end the war with Iraq and urging Arab media to promote unity.

PDRY

Resuming the trial of 12 individuals accused of sabotage, the high court heard two of the accused confess to having been trained by American experts, Aden radio reported

Iran

Reaction to Explosion -- In a speech to the Majlis broadcast by Tehran radio, Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani accused France of responsibility for the 22 February blast in Tehran, contending that by harboring "criminals" opposed to the Islamic republic, France has allowed them to unite and will consequently be "answerable to our nation in future." He said Iran will not easily forgive France, which does not do anything without the United States. Meanwhile the clandestine radios Free Voice of Iran and Voice of Iran reported that monarchist groups have denied responsibility for the bombing.

ETTELA'AT on Ammesty, Executions -- Citing ETTELA'AT, AFP reported that Ayatollah Khomeyni amnestied 911 prisoners on 23 February, allowing them to return to their homes. The prisoners had been detained by order of army and anti-drug tribunals. AFP cited another ETTELA'AT report that three Mojahedin-e Khalq supporters, including an Iranian Army battalion commander, have been executed in Shiraz.

Afghanistan

Citing reports reaching Delhi from Kabul, BBC World Service reported that Afghan guerrillas recently shot down a helicopter carrying Soviet Lt Gen Piotr Shkidchenko over Paktia Province. The general and three other Russians were killed.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 037 *24 February 1982*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Soviet Helicopter Said Downed by Afghans C 1
Karmal Addresses Land Reform Meeting 23 Feb C 1
Security Forces Rout Terrorists in Qonduz C 1
Briefs: Ambassador To Romania; DRA-USSR Movie C 1

INDIA

Rao Meets With Ramphal on Commonwealth E 1
Finance Minister Says Inflation Rate Falling E 1
Mukherjee Comments on Aid to Other Countries E 1
Subcommission With U.S. Meets in New Delhi E 1
Nonaligned Information Council Meeting Ends E 1
Paper on Resignation of Pakistan's Shahi [THE STATESMAN 19 Feb] E 2

PAKISTAN

PNP Urges Consensus on 3-Point Formula [DAWN 20 Feb] F 1
Wang Bingnan Addresses Friendship Group F 1

IRAN

Khamene'i Sends Message To USSR's Brezhnev I 1
Majlis Speaker Blames France for Crimes I 1
Revolution Prosecutor on Loyalty to 'Leader' I 2
Hojjat ol-Eslam Yazdi on Retaliation Bill [ETTELA'AT 8 Feb] I 2
Majlis Debates Civic, Political Issues I 3
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique 799 I 4
Commentary on Saudi Abdallah's Visit to Iraq I 4
ETTELA'AT Reports Khomeyni Amnesties 911 [AFP] I 5
Funeral Procession Held for Bomb Blast Victims I 6
Clandestine on Monarchists Denial on Explosion I 6
Regime Defaming Monarchists [VOI] I 6
NVOI Claims U.S. To Blame for Explosion I 7
Radio Iran on Khomeyni's Nonmention of Explosion I 8
Clandestine Radio on Unreported Executions [Free Voice of Iran] I 9
Clandestine on Crude Oil Price Decrease [Radio Iran] I 9
Briefs: Industrial Projects Planned; Bandar I 9
Dayyer Imam Appointed

SOVIET HELICOPTER SAID DOWNED BY AFGHANS

TA231742 London BBC World Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Reports reaching Delhi from the Afghan capital Kabul say antigovernment guerillas in Afghanistan have shot down a helicopter carrying a Soviet general. The reports say he was Lt Gen Piotr Shkidschenko, a former deputy commander of the Soviet forces in East Germany. The general, three other Russians and an Afghan aboard the helicopter were killed. The helicopter was said to have crashed in Paktia province, southeast of Kabul, after it was hit by rocket fire. The incident was said to have taken place 5 weeks ago. At the time, the Soviet army newspaper RED STAR reported that General Shkidchenko had been killed in an air crash, but it did not give any details.

KARMAL ADDRESSES LAND REFORM MEETING 23 FEB

GF240729 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, today attended a grant meeting on the continuation of just and democratic land reform and water conservation in the DRA. Ministry officials and local and party officials attended the meeting, which was held in Delkoshah Palace, headquarters of the Revolutionary Council.

Babrak Karmal delivered a speech on the importance of continuing the just and democratic (?distribution) of land and water. The meeting was opened with a recitation from the Holy Koran and the playing of the DRA national anthem.

In part of his speech, Babrak Karmal said that the Sawr national and democratic revolution has been successful under our party. He noted that its main goal and aim is the completion of democratic land reform, which it considers to be an important issue.

SECURITY FORCES ROUT TERRORISTS IN QONDUZ

GF231800 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] A group of rebels who were causing disruption of the noble people of Hazrat Imam county of the Qonduz Province in the northern Afghanistan have been crushed by the security forces (?in defense) of revolution of that region. The ringleader of these rebels, (Abdul Majid), has been crushed in these operations while three members of these bandits, exported from abroad, have been arrested.

A source of the security forces said a large quantity of assorted weapons and various types of [word indistinct] has been seized from these bandits of Hazrat Imam county.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO ROMANIA -- Dr Habib Mangal, the DRA ambassador to USSR, who has been also appointed Afghan ambassador to Romania, presented his credentials to Nicolae Ceausescu, the president of Romania, in Bucharest on 23 February. [Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 23 Feb 82 GF]

DRA-USSR MOVIE -- The Afghan film making institute signed an agreement in Kabul on 23 February with the State Committee for Cinematography of the USSR for making a movie named "The Hot Summer in Kabul" as a joint venture. [Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 23 Feb 82 GF]

RAO MEETS WITH RAMPHAL ON COMMONWEALTH

BK231619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Secretary General of the Commonwealth Ramphal met External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao in New Delhi today. They discussed matters relating to South-South cooperation, particularly in the Commonwealth.

FINANCE MINISTER SAYS INFLATION RATE FALLING

BK231620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] The rate of inflation has been falling sharply. It was 4.1 percent on the 6th of this month, against 15.7 percent during the corresponding period last year. Replying to questions in the Rajya Sabha, the finance minister said inflation has been arrested because of government policy, monetary control and commodity management.

In reply to a specific question, Pranab Mukherjee ruled out any kind of emergency, including financial emergency, to curb inflation in the country.

MUKHERJEE COMMENTS ON AID TO OTHER COUNTRIES

BK231241 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] India's assistance to the neighboring and other developing countries went up to over 760 million rupees in 1980-81. This amount is 260 million rupees more compared to the figure of 1976-77. This was stated by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee in the upper house of Parliament in New Delhi today.

The finance minister said these countries include Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Tanzania, Zambia and Mauritius.

Pranab Mukherjee agreed that such assistance involves a measure of sacrifices on our part, but it is given to enable them to get goods and services from India and also to promote our experts.

The finance minister said India's borrowings have gone up in recent years to meet its developmental needs. Its assistance to other countries is, however, only a fraction of the external borrowings, he added.

In reply to a supplementary, Mukherjee denied that the IMF team, which visited New Delhi last month, had any discussion with the government on the 1982-83 budget.

SUBCOMMISSION WITH U.S. MEETS IN NEW DELHI

BK231237 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] The fifth meeting of the Indo-U.S. Subcommission on Economic and Commercial Affairs begins in New Delhi today. The 2-day meeting will be the first of the subcommission under the Reagan administration. The last meeting was held in March 1980.

NONALIGNED INFORMATION COUNCIL MEETING ENDS

BK240342 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] The New Delhi meeting of the expert group of the Nonaligned Intergovernmental Council for Coordination of Information has made wideranging recommendations for strengthening and restructuring of the council.

They include establishment of a system of feedback from the member countries, strengthening of the infrastructure of the new agencies, setting up of a documentation center for broadcast media, coproduction of films and organization of film festivals of nonaligned countries. The 2-day meeting, attended by 30 delegates from 14 countries, ended yesterday.

The meeting recommended that resources should be mobilized for creation and strengthening of the infrastructure of the news agencies constituting the nonaligned news pool to improve the functioning of the pool. It will take steps to provide services in as many languages as possible. A monitoring group of experts will be set up. The meeting felt that for better working of the Broadcasting Organization of the Nonaligned Countries, BONAC, exchange and coproduction of development oriented programs should be arranged. The council will also initiate a detailed study for use of satellite communication facilities. It also recommended that films should come under the sphere of activity of BONAC.

Briefing newsmen the chairman of the meeting and secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting S.B. Lal said the council will devise a method of consultations with other nonaligned countries of the Group of 77 to obtain assistance from UNESCO and other world bodies.

PAPER ON RESIGNATION OF PAKISTAN'S SHAHI

BK231120 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Feb 82 p 8

[Editorial: "Questions on Pakistan"]

[Text] On the face of it, there is a plausible explanation for the replacement of Mr Agha Shahi by Lt Gen Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan as foreign minister of Pakistan. Mr Shahi may indeed have wanted to be relieved of his onerous duties because of poor health; if so, Gen Yaqub Ali's inclusion in the Pakistani delegation for the recent New Delhi talks may have been intended to prepare him for such exchanges. On this assumption, continuity will be maintained at the next round of Indo-Pakistani talks in Islamabad. But another explanation was suggested even before the change was announced. A British newspaper report, quoting Islamabad sources, predicted the change a week ago, saying that Mr Shahi had fallen out with President Ziaul Haq "on several issues including relations with India" and that he was unhappy with General Zia's "idea of an alliance between Catholicism and Islam against the forces of atheism and communism". If this is true, General Yaqub Ali may have been sent to Delhi to keep a watch on Mr Shahi's performance and his report may have gone against the leader of the delegation. If the Pakistani president had already thought of a replacement, Mr Shahi's conduct of the negotiations may have confirmed a tentative decision and hastened its execution. The latter's denial of any policy differences may not entirely remove the misgivings created by last week's report.

One cannot be sure; but the questions raised by the change are obviously important. All policy indications from Islamabad are of interest to India; one with a bearing on Indo-Pakistani relations would be of vital consequence in the context of the negotiations to be resumed early next month. It is not necessary to take any policy shift for granted; nor is there any warrant for change in the Indian position on the Pakistani proposal for a no-war pact or on negotiations for it. Gen Yaqub Ali's record, as far as known, need not deter New Delhi; he was militarygovernor of East Pakistan but resigned from the army when Yahya Khan rejected his advice to seek a political solution and has since been a successful and senior diplomat. Yet, despite his urbane manner, he may share more of President Zia's extreme views than Mr Shahi apparently does. That the former foreign minister's perception of Soviet intentions was apparently different from the president's is not of direct concern to India; reported U.S. preferences are still less relevant. But any significant difference on relations with India would have implications to be seriously pondered; so would such an excess of Islamic orthodoxy as precludes genuine understanding with a secular nation. None of this needs to be assumed, but the questions remain.

PNP URGES CONSENSUS ON 3-POINT FORMULA

GF231425 Karachi DAWN in English 20 Feb 82 p 10

[By our staff reporter]

[Text] Mr Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo's defunct PNP [Pakistan National Party] will welcome a consensus with the MRD [Movement for Restoration of Democracy] or any other party on the three-point formula incorporated in the Central Committee resolution of Dec. 8, 1981, the party's information secretary, Mr Fasihuddin Salar, said in Karachi on Friday.

The points listed are: complete autonomy of the federating units, return of the armed forces to barracks, simultaneously with the holding of general elections by any authoritative and reliable agency, and withdrawal of the press censorship, lifting of ban on political parties, and restoration of fundamental rights to the people.

The defunct PNP's formula was delivered in person by Mr Salar and Mr Yusuf Masti Khan in December last to the leaders of the MRD's coalescing parties as well as to Prof. Ghafoor Ahmad, Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, and Pir Pagaro. Mr Salar said it was generally welcomed -- more specifically by the MRD leaders.

Mr Bizenjo, while in Karachi before he was externed, had emphasised that a prior understanding on the question of the quantum of provincial autonomy was essential to the defunct PNP's co-operation so as to facilitate necessary amendment in the 1973 constitution by a future elected parliament.

Lately, Sardar Sherbaz Mazari and Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi on behalf of the defunct NDP and PPP respectively, have sounded hopeful of an understanding reached with Mr Bizenjo on the question of safeguards for the rights of smaller provinces.

Mr Fasihuddin Salar, while commenting on the statement of the defunct NDP's Mr Hashim Ghilzai, made it clear that the dissociation of the PNP from the NDP was on principles and not because of any clash of personalities.

WANG BINGNAN ADDRESSES FRIENDSHIP GROUP

BK240128 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] A reception was hosted in Lahore this evening in honor of leader of the visiting Chinese delegation Wang Bingnan by the Pakistan-China Friendship Association. Speaking on the occasion he said a stable and strong Pakistan could play an important role in safeguarding peace in Southeast Asia and the Asian region. He said Pakistan had adopted a nonaligned policy under the leadership of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and has won support and acclaim of the people of the world. He said Pakistan's stand on the Afghanistan issue was based on principle.

Referring to the progress made by Pakistan in economic development he said China considered every success and achievement of Pakistan as its own.

The Chinese delegation chief, who is also the president of the Chinese Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, suggested that the cities of Pakistan and China be declared enjoying friendly city relations like the Chinese and Japanese cities. Responding promptly to his suggestion the mayor of Lahore said Lahore and Beijing should be declared as cities having friendly relations on the pattern of sister cities or twin cities. He said a resolution to this effect will be adopted in the [Municipal] Corporation's next meeting.

KHAMENE'I SENDS MESSAGE TO USSR'S BREZHNEV

LD231800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Feb 82

["Text" of message sent by Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, to Leonid Brezhnev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Your Excellency Mr Leonid Brezhnev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

I am grateful for your message of felicitations on the occasion of the beginning of the fourth anniversary of the victory of the glorious Islamic revolution of Iran. Our revolution, which has come about with the aim of securing peace and social justice among all the world peoples, will succeed in removing from our path the difficulties arising from the political games of imperialism. Our revolution will succeed in achieving the above goals which also constitute the best aspirations of your nation and government.

May I wish your excellency success in serving your people, and the nation of the USSR success and happiness.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

MAJLIS SPEAKER BLAMES FRANCE FOR CRIMES

LD231226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Speech by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani at 23 February session of Majlis -- recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The tragic crime committed yesterday at Eshratabad Square is something which one cannot easily ignore. I believe that the Majlis ought to provide some guidelines to society in this connection.

The crime was so dreadful that when I watched it last night on television I wept in seclusion for some time. I was sayint to myself: What is this? What sort of people are these who could commit such crimes? What about the families who will have to work night and day to make some money in order to rebuild their houses? What about the family members lamenting the deaths of the head of their families who were workers? What about those (working) for or standing in bus lines? We cannot attach any political significance to this dreadful crime.

As far as we are concerned, all the counterrevolutionaries are responsible and are considered to be perpetrators. As for the roots of the crime, we consider America to be responsible. However, today it is France that is responsible because these criminals gathered together today in France and are jointly engaged in hatching plots. In the incident in Amol [where opponents of the regime overran the town some weeks ago] although it was the communist union which was responsible, we know that the monarchists, Mojahedin-e Khalq, other elements and America were also involved. We have discovered some centers in Tehran which have received money from America in this connection and have spent some money for this purpose. These people are not ostensibly communists. However, we attach joint responsibility to all these criminals, particularly France today; for it is a center for the assembly of these criminals, people like Bakhtiar, Bani-Sadr, Rajavi, Oveysi, Azhari, as well as the comings and goings of Reza Pahlavi and many others we do not know. These people have gathered there, and it is France which has made it possible for them to unite.

Consequently, France will be answerable to our nation in the future. We shall not easily forgive France. Even if we do, our people and the deprived families who have just taken delivery of the smashed bodies of their children from hospitals and taken them to the cemetery will not forgive France. Needless to say, France does not do anything without America.

The main motive behind the activities of these people is to force the Islamic government to resort to harsh measures. These people wish to resort to certain acts which would psychologically force the Islamic Republic to resort to harsh acts, so that they may present the Islamic Republic to the world as an evil one. This is particularly true when they see a majority of repentant prisoners admit the humane behavior of prison officials; when they see the guests visiting our country on the occasion of the anniversary of the revolution visiting prisons and saying that prisons under the Islamic Republic are exemplary, and that they treat the saboteurs like their own dear children.

REVOLUTION PROSECUTOR ON LOYALTY TO 'LEADER'

LD232228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] According to the central news unit, the Revolution Prosecutor General's Office has announced in a statement that, following the suicidal explosion by the joint front of blasphemy and hypocrisy a group of Hezbollahis [members of Party of God] came to this office and staged a sit-in to demand more decisiveness from the judicial authorities, and particularly from the honorable revolution prosecutor general. They dispersed after a brief speech by a representative of the revolution prosecutor general. In this connection, we draw the attention of the Hezbollahi Islamic nation to the following points:

1. Complete obedience to the position of the leader; [Rahbar]

2. The Revolution Prosecutor General's Office will act from a position of strength and decisiveness within the framework of instructions issued by the leader. Those prisoners who express regret and who qualify, will be introduced to the amnesty commission, and the deviants will be severely punished by the whip of the revolution.

3. This office will carry out its duties just as before by utilizing the information supplied through the 36-million strong intelligence organization, and no (?opportunity) will be given to opportunists for conspiracy and subversion.

HOJJAT OL-ESLAM YAZDI ON RETALIATION BILL

GF231725 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 8 Feb 82 p 3

[Unidentified correspondent's interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Yazdi, deputy head of Majlis commission for investigation of bill to nationalize foreign trade -- date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] The retaliation bill has not yet reached the Majlis following a period of discussion. Can you please explain the difficulties causing the delay and the way it has been discussed?

[Answer] In answer to this question, I should say that the bill did not have the signature of the justice minister. When it was proposed there was no minister of justice. So long as it did not have the minister's signature, it could not be discussed as a bill and therefore it remained dormant for some time. During this period another proposal was designed to take care of some of the urgent needs of the revolution courts until the retaliation bill was approved. The bill ran into difficulty since part of it mentioned that it should be implemented according to the decrees of Imam Khomeyni in his book "Tahrir Alvasileh" [The Way to Liberation].

The Council of Guardians' opinion was that since the book is in Arabic and the constitution states that the language is Farsi, the basis of the bill would naturally have to be the translation of the book. This was cleared up in the commission.

However, even though the word "translation" was added, it meant that three books about retaliation and usury had to be translated.

It was decided recently to solve the problem by having the justice minister sign the bill and then forward it to the Majlis as a new bill. This has been done. Since this was designed during the time of martyr Raja'i and now the prime minister is His Excellency Musavi, it has returned to the Judicial Commission signed and as a new bill. It is going through the preliminary stages and in the very near future will be on the agenda of the Judicial Commission.

MAJLIS DEBATES CIVIC, POLITICAL ISSUES

GF231026 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian begins live coverage of the proceedings of the open session of the Majlis at 0502 GMT on 23 February. Following the recitation of the Koran, an unidentified speaker launches a tirade against the superpowers and the infidel Saddam for imposing a war on Iran. He severely castigates Jordan for joining the ranks of the aggressors. Continuing his diatribe, he says that the great Khomeyni, by refusing the Fahd proposals, showed the world that Iran cannot be subjugated. Reception deteriorates at this juncture and the program becomes inaudible at 0518 GMT.

The station is barely monitorable at 0550 GMT when a Friday imam is heard saying that the Friday imams are the "guardian angels" of Imam Khomeyni. Another unidentified speaker is heard at 0559 GMT discussing equitable distribution of foodgrains and payment of arrears. Two motions are presented before the Majlis but the station becomes unmonitorable while voting on them is in progress.

Reception continues to be very poor and allocation of foreign exchange for students studying abroad is proposed at 0630 GMT.

A spirited discussion ensues on the subject and it is suggested that those students who avail of government scholarships should be required to sign a bond promising to serve in the same field for which their studies are financed. An unnamed deputy said that most of the students did not continue studies or service in their chosen field and that such malpractices should be eliminated. Another unidentified deputy comes to the rostrum at 0644 GMT and says that students returning after completion of studies abroad should be assimilated in government departments so that they may not have to accept jobs unrelated to their specialty.

The station is unheard again 0648-0654 GMT when the speaker is heard summing up certain motions, which are indistinct. At 0655 GMT the Majlis adjourns until the next session which will be held on Sunday at 0800 Tehran time [0500 GMT].

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 799

LD231746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Communique No 799 issued by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name.

With thanks to the combative and self-sacrificing forces of the battlefronts of truth against falsehood, particularly the brave warriors of the (Tang-e Chazzabeh) front who through their recent operations and by smashing the Iraqi invading forces have created pride for their risen and Muslim Islamic nation, part of the battle operation of the self-sacrificing combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the situation on the battlefronts are brought to the attention of our dear compatriots:

The exchange of fire continues on the southern fronts, particularly in (Tang-e Chazzabeh). Our powerful forces on all fronts, while guarding their own defensive positions, opened artillery and other heavy weapon fire on enemy positions and inflicted effective blows on enemy forces.

Thanks to the fire of our navy combatants on the Khorramshahr front, Saddamist forces suffered some loss and damages and some of their positions were destroyed. Enemy activities on this front were foiled.

Yesterday an exchange of artillery and other heavy weapon fire continued on most of the country's western fronts between our forces and the enemy. Fire exchange was more intense on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Gilan-e Gharb, Sumar, (Meymak) and Salehabad fronts. The artillery fire on our ground forces on these fronts destroyed one tank, one ammunition depot and several trenches and foxholes of the enemy. The artillery fire also damaged two trucks and several emplacements of enemy equipment. A considerable number of Iraqi troops were either killed our wounded.

On the Gilan-e Gharb front, combatants of the ground forces opened fire on a patrol unit of the Saddamist forces and by scatttering the unit, our combatants forced them to flee the region.

Yesterday, several aggressive Iraqi planes tried to violate the airspace of our country, but the fire of the air defense unit of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran forced them to flee.

During the 21 Feb battle, five self-sacrificing combatants of the ground forces and two comrades-in-arms of the gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran, gained the honor of martydrom and joined the ranks of the eternal martyrs. May their souls be happy.

COMMENTARY ON SAUDI ABDALLAH'S VISIT TO IRAQ

GF231630 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Prince 'Abdallah's Visit to Iraq"]

[Excerpts] Baghdad is currently hosting a number of military and political figures. Before French foreign relations Minister Cheysson had a chance to depart from Baghdad's back door, Prince 'Abdallah, the Saudi deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, entered through the front door. He was immediately led to Saddam's palace to confer with Sa'dun Shakir, the minister of the interior. Their negotiations took place behind closed doors. In fact, such talks are usually held in camera. No disclosure has been made with regard to the topics discussed. Nevertheless, taking into account the military, political and economic situation of the Ba'thist regime, one can speculate on matters discussed at their closed-door meeting.

It is a fact that the initial stages of Iraq's imposed war on the Islamic Republic of Iran raised the hopes of U.S. imperialism and its allies in the region. However, the unexpected turn the war has taken proves that the United States has been wrong in its plans. In fact, it proves that the United States was unaware of the Iranian people's revolutionary spirit and the extent of sacrifices they were prepared to make.

Saudi National Guard Commander Prince 'Abdallah's recent visit to Baghdad is indicative of the anxiety the international oppressors feel over the outcome of the war and over the fate of the Saddam regime. The financial aid extended to Iraq to date and the arms and reinforcements sent to that country have not been effective in saving the Saddam regime. Political observers link Prince 'Abdallah's visit to Baghdad with the unrest within Iraq.

It could also be that the changes on the battlefronts have undermined U.S. hopes that its (?interests) would be safeguarded through the Ba'thist regime in Iraq. Thus the responsibility of controlling the situation in the region after the fall of the Ba'thist regime may be transferred to Saudi Arabia. However, the Saudi regime will not be able to guarantee the regime that will replace Saddam's will accord with the interests of international imperialism. This is due to the fact that the consciousness of the Iraqi people has attained such a level that they will never be misled by deceptive slogans and conspiracies.

Under the circumstances, U.S. imperialism relies mostly on domestic and foreign oppressive forces. It is in the interest of the United States that these forces of intimidation are from within the Arab world. The Saudis have expressed more readiness in this respect than any other country. It must not be forgotten that the only factor that can foil all conspiracies aimed at placing Iraq in captivity is the vigilance of the Muslim and revolutionary Iraqi people.

Prince 'Abdallah's meeting with the Iraqi interior minister was aimed at bringing Iraq's internal situation under control. A number of political observers argue that the Jordanian king's detachment of mercenaries to Iraq is related to this matter. Meanwhile, isn't the initiative launched by the commander of the Saudi National Guard tantamount to interference in Iraq's internal affairs? By making such a move, isn't the Saudi administration interfering in the internal affairs of other countries on behalf of the United States? Isn't the initiative made by the commander of the Saudi National Guard treachery against the poor revolutionary people of Iraq?

We address the following to all freedom-loving people in the world and to the Muslims in the region: The United States is interfering in the internal affairs of foreign countries through its lackeys and pawns. This is being done to keep the Middle East under its domination. The only force that can stand against the United States is the Muslim community of the region. At a time when the Saddam regime is about to fall, the United States is endeavoring to bring another of its pawns to power in Iraq so as to keep the Iraqi people under its hegemony.

ETTELA'AT REPORTS KHOMEYNI AMNESTIES 911

NC231113 Paris AFP in English 1101 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 23 Feb (AFP) -- Nine hundred and eleven prisoners were amnestied today by Iran's religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, the ETTELA'AT newspaper reported here.

The prisoners, "who have returned home", were held under the jurisdictions of army revolutionary tribunals and anti-drug tribunals, the paper said.

Ayatollah Khomeyni had recently asked Revolutionary Prosecutor General Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Tabrizi to speed up the amnesty process.

Judges should be broad-minded in establishing criteria for amnesty, except for those "for whom forgiveness would contravene divine commandments," [word indistinct] said.

According to the prosecutor general, a total of 2,000 to 3,000 prisoners could be amnestied at the Iranian New Year on March 21.

FUNERAL PROCESSION HELD FOR BOMB BLAST VICTIMS

LD231626 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 23 Feb (IRNA) -- The funeral procession of eight martyrs of yesterday's bomb explosion in Sepah [formerly Eshratabad] Square, eastern Tehran was today held in the south of the city.

Tens of thousands of the city's people participated in the ceremony and shouted slogans against the Monafeqin (MKO) [hypocrites: Mojahedin-e Khalq] and the United States. The martyrs were buried in Behesht Zahra cemetery. Two Armenian martyrs were buried in the Christian division of the cemetery.

A group called "Defenders of the Monarchist Regime" claimed responsibility for the bombing which took the lives of some 15 people and wounded at least 60 others. Among the victims were innocent pedestrians including school children as well as three revolutionary guards.

Meanwhile the Iranian television last night screened the site of the explosion which was another "gift" by foreign oriented agents to the Iranian nation on the eve of Feb. 23rd -- the anniversary of the British-oriented coup d'etat of 1920 by Reza Shah father of the ex-shah of Iran.

At 0718 yesterday morning, a powerful bomb, planted in a garbage truck, exploded in an area of eastern Tehran. The garbage truck under which the destructive bomb was planted by pro-U.S. agents had been parked behind the western wall of the Vali 'Asr barracks, according to the Tehran police chief, Colonel Niknejad.

CLANDESTINE ON MONARCHISTS DENIAL ON EXPLOSION

NC231234 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] News agencies have reported that various monarchist groups, temporarily in the FRG capital, Bonn, have issued a statement (?strongly denying) any connection with the explosion in Tehran on Monday. The monarchists, who issued their statement after contacting monarchists within Iran, have stated that this criminal act was carried out by Hezbollahis in a bid to diminish the increasing popularity of the Iranian monarchists.

Regime Defaming Monarchists

NC231226 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Compatriots: At 0715 on Monday the criminal mullahs' new plan for deceiving the public was unveiled. At 0715 on Monday, a bomb planted by the regime's professional murderers exploded and killed dozens of innocent people. At 0716 on Monday, thousands of Hezbollahis gathered at 'Eshratabad Square, according to a preplanned program, and started chanting slogans against opponents. At 0720 on Monday, the criminal Ruhollah Khomeyni smiled because his son, Ahmad, submitted a report to him on the explosion.

At 0725 on Monday, the criminal Khomeyni ordered Sheykh 'Ali Musavi Khamene'i, Sheykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Sheykh Musavi-Ardabili and Hoseyn Musavi Khamene'i to meet him in an audience. At 0930 on Monday, Khomeyni thanked the main elements of his regime for successfully implementing this criminal plan. At 0945 the bloodsucking Khomeyni ordered his servants to start their propaganda program. At 1245 on Monday, the clerical government's spokesman officially announced that the monarchists were responsible for the explosion. At 1408 on Monday, the disgraceful voice of the wretched regime broadcasted the shaking voice of the dying old man. Khomeyni who had awakened with the news that the blood of some innocent people had been shed could not conceal his delight. Khomeyni proved that he has not yet died contrary to rumors, and that he intends to shed even more blood.

Compatriots: The preplanned program for Monday's bomb planting clearly showed that the opportunist mullahs, with the cooperation of their hireling propagandists, have adopted a new method in deceiving the public and in defaming opponents, especially the monarchists, and you are undoubtedly aware of this. Do not allow these foreigners in the guise of clergymen to kill more than this. Never believe the words and claims of these bloodsucking hirelings, who say that this bomb had been planted by monarchists on the occasion of 3 Esfand [anniversary of the accession to the throne on February 22, 1920, of the former shah's father Reza Shah]. The insane Ruhollah Khomeyni and the other bloodsucking mullahs have realized that the end of their corrupt regime is near and their last effort for maintaining the Iran-destructive regime was implemented on Monday at 0715.

NVOI CLAIMS U.S. TO BLAME FOR EXPLOSION

TA232050 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Another Dreadful Crime by Agents of World-Devouring America"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The counterrevolution, this fifth column of world-devouring America, by exploding a bomb in Tehran resulting in the death and injury of scores of innocent people, has once again presented its ugly and inhuman face to all. Blind terrorism, which is being waged in our country by ignoble and counterrevolutionary elements, stems from international terrorism under the leadership of the U.S. Government which wants by such criminal acts to render the situation in our country tense, to cause the people to be alarmed, and finally to purport in the international arena that allegedly there is no real stability in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

However, the counterrevolution, the Savakists and remnants of the former regime, extreme leftist and rightist elements, the Maoists and others, or their overseas masters and overlords are entirely wrong, and little do they know that by such criminal acts they cannot make our homeland's people despondent toward the revolution and its aims and discredit revolutionary Iran in the international arena.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani was a thousand times correct when he said that the responsibility for this dreadful crime rests with world-devouring America. Through the experience of the 3 years that have passed since the victory of the glorious revolution of the Iranian nation our people have observed and continue to observe that U.S. imperialism has not refrained for a single moment from plotting against the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and that during this period has resorted to every means to deal a blow to our liberated country, and in the final analysis to weaken the Islamic government and to implement its Satanic plans for retrieving Iran.

It is an undeniable fact that the Iranian revolution, despite all the plots, conspiracies, subversions, assassinations and the aggressions of the counterrevolution and U.S. imperialism, is continuing its perpetuation and progress. The people have arisen with claws and teeth in defense of their revolution, and it is this revolutionary vigilance, resistance and revolutionary decisiveness by our nation that has caused the conspiratorial plans of world-devouring America and its lackeys within Iran to be foiled, and the situation of our emancipated homeland to be stabilized. This, too, has caused the alarm of our nation's foreign and domestic foes.

In our country the field for the activity of the multifarious counterrevolution is getting narrower, and according to the saying: in revolutionary Iran the earth is burning under the feet of the counterrevolution and its imperialist supporters. Therefore, it seems they had no alternative but to plant bombs and kill innocent persons in order to show that they still exist and have power. However, one should say that it is quite another story now, and it is impossible to return Iran to the former situation, for the people are defending the revolution and its gains and are moving it forward on the popular and anti-imperialist path.

However, this under no circumstances means that the revolution's task has been accomplished and that the counterrevolution has been totally crushed. The counterrevolution still exists. Unfortunately, for various reasons, it still can flex its muscle in our society. The reason for this, above all, should be sought in the nonexistence of alliance and unity in the ranks of true revolutionaries, for despite the imam's guidelines and the efforts of the realistic leaders of the Islamic Republic, the superficiality, monopolism and mental prejudice of some groups continues to fan the fire of discord.

If alliance and unity of expression and deed in the true sense had been established among the true revolutionary forces and the supporters of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and if all these forces had been used in a united front against the joint enemy -- U.S. imperialism and the counterrevolution -- the field for the subversive, terrorist activities of the counterrevolutionaries would have become narrower.

The recent heart-rending incident in Tehran is indicative of the fact that the enemies of the Iranian revolution are acting in a united manner against our people and liberated country. Under such circumstances why should the true revolutionary forces, irrespective of their political and religious beliefs and ideologies, not act in a united manner to confront and crush the plots of the enemies and to promote the goals of the revolution?

Should all the true forces of the revolution unite, not only the internal counterrevolution will not be able to do a damn thing, but also its master, world-devouring America, and the super criminal according to Imam Khomeyni.

RADIO IRAN ON KHOMEYNI'S NONMENTION OF EXPLOSION

NC231601 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] In the tape recording broadcast yesterday on Ruhollah Khomeyni's remarks and which, according to the regime's radio, were remarks made by Khomeyni yesterday during his meeting with the Islamic Republic's officials, Khomeyni made no mention of the people killed in yesterday's incident [Tehran explosion]. It can be said that either this tape was a recording of remarks he made before yesterday's incident, or the death of dozens of Iranians is not important to him.

CLANDESTINE RADIO ON UNREPORTED EXECUTIONS

NC231658 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] A Free Voice of Iran correspondent in Tehran has reported that Khomeyni's antinational regime continues to hang and execute antiregime groups and patriots and that the occupied Tehran radio and television refrain from publishing reports on these executions. Reporting on the execution of 10 people in Tehran, Neyshabur, Esfahan and two other cities, our correspondent quotes informed sources in Tehran and writes that Khomeyni's regime is expected to once again intensify the massacre of opponents on the excuse of the recent Tehran explosion. This report states that Khomeyni's regime has also lost this pretext, because the revolution guards and Hezbollahis have been presented as those responsible for this explosion.

CLANDESTINE ON CRUDE OIL PRICE DECREASE

NC231613 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] The Islamic Republic is once again dropping the price of Iran's oil. The mullahs have dropped the price of Iranian oil to (?$32) and this is the third drop in Iran's price during the past 20 days. The last drop in price by the clerical regime was announced at a time when Arab members of OPEC are trying to place the topic of the difference of prices during the emergency meeting to be held this Saturday. The decrease in the price of Iranian oil which will go into effect this week brings the price of light Iranian oil to $30.20 a barrel -- $4 less than the price of Saudi oil (?as well as from the basic) price set by OPEC.

The continuous decrease in the price of Iranian oil has caused great fluctuations in prices on the Rotterdam free market and has dropped it to 15 percent lower than the OPEC price. The mullahs' recent decisions on dropping the price of Iranian oil has placed all oil-exporting countries under pressure to decrease prices. Directors of U.S. and British oil companies have expressed their happiness at the decrease in Iran's price and have stressed that all oil-producing countries are under pressure to decrease prices. Meanwhile, OPEC countries are trying -- by dropping their production -- to neutralize the Islamic Republic's plot to drop prices.

BRIEFS

INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS PLANNED -- The Ministry of Mines and Metals has announced that Sarcheshmeh copper mining complex is producing 300 to 400 tons of enriched ore daily and that its smelting unit will go into production shortly. The Esfahan metallurgical complex established by this ministry will now produce 1.9 million tons of steel annually. The projects under consideration by the ministry for implementation in the near future are a lead smelting factory, the enrichment of gold ore at the Muteh mine, prospecting for phosphate to produce chemical fertilizer and for raw material to produce aluminum. [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Feb 82 p 13 GF]

BANDAR DAYYER IMAM APPOINTED -- According to an order issued by the office of Imam Khomeyni, Seqat ol-Eslam Aqa Sheykh Hoseyn Montazeri has been appointed the Friday Imam of Bandar Dayyer. [Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 21 Feb 82 GF]